



## **Superior Court of California County of Riverside**

4050 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92501

### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

October 20, 2011

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(Electronic version available at:

<http://riverside.courts.ca.gov/media/media.shtml>

### **RIVERSIDE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT TO TAKE PART IN NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY 2011**

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY:** The Riverside County Superior Court is pleased to announce that it will take part in a collaborative effort with the Riverside County Department of Public Social Services to celebrate families who adopt children on National Adoption Day, Saturday, November 19, 2011. This marks the 4th annual 'Adoption Finalization Day' in Riverside County.

Adoptions will take place for 28 families and 53 children, ranging from eight months to 16 years of age. The finalization hearings will be held at the Historic Courthouse, located at 4050 Main Street, Riverside, 92501, and the event is open to the media. The Department of Public Social Services will be honoring families taking part in this event with refreshments and gifts for the families and children being adopted.

One of the contributors to this event is an upcoming community leader who is only ten years old. Jacob Fish, who through his own non-profit business called 'Building Bears for Other Kids' will be donating personalized build-a bear gifts for each adopted child. Jacob's overall goal is to give children something to love and hug. He has delivered bears to children throughout Riverside County in hospitals, police stations and Red Cross centers.

Other contributors include:

- Prevent Child Abuse Riverside County is working with the Department of Social Services to obtain items for the gift bags, as well as, supplies for the event.
- Girl Scout Troop #11034 is working towards obtaining their Bronze Award by helping the county raise awareness about adoption, so that one day every child can have a permanent, loving home. The Girl Scouts are soliciting local businesses for donations to raise money, as well as through other means, to contribute items to the gift bags that each family will receive. Leaders include:

Kim Peterson, Fabbi Razo and Isabelle Harriel; and the following Girl Scouts: Allison Casillas, Anelisa Razo-Castaneda, Ashley Jamison, Jaylen Loza, Kylie Carmean, Lyla Valerdi, Madison Latham, Megan Peterson, Mikaela Bryan, Tara Helou, Zoe Harriel).

National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to raise awareness for the more than 129,000 children in foster care who are eligible for adoption. The day brings together hundreds of judges, attorneys, adoption professionals, and child advocates who are dedicated to creating families for waiting children.

The goal of National Adoption Day has grown from nine events in its first year to more than 300 events in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The goal of National Adoption Day has been that every community in the U.S. will have an annual, institutionalized, self-driven celebration of National Adoption Day on or near the Saturday before Thanksgiving, which can include finalizing adoptions of children from foster care and celebrating all adoptions. In total, more than 25,000 children have been adopted from foster care during these annual activities.

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